

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on October 31, 2007.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 15-19 are amended, claims 8, 10-14, and 20 remain canceled, and claims 21-24 are added; as a result, claims 1-7, 9, 15-19, and 21-14 are now pending in this application. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added via these claim amendments.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

1. Claims 1-4, 6-7, 9, 15-16 and 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wachi et al. (U.S. 6,833,665 B2; hereinafter “Wachi”) in view of Goodwin et al. (U.S. 5,265,273; hereinafter “Goodwin”), and further in view of Schneider (U.S. 6,089,976).

Concerning claims 1 and 15

Applicant cannot find on the cited portions of Wachi, Goodwin, or Schneider any disclosure or description of “a second panel mounted in front of the first panel, the second panel substantially encompassing the first panel to protect the conductive material of the first panel” as presently recited in claim 1 and similarly recited in claim 15. As such, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this basis of rejection of these claims.

Concerning dependent claims 2-4, 6-7, 9, 16, and 18-19

The remaining dependent claims 2-4, 6-7, 9, 16, and 18-19 depend from independent claims 1 and 15, either directly or indirectly, and accordingly incorporate the limitations of each of these independent claims. These dependent claims are accordingly believed to be patentable for the reasons stated herein. For brevity, Applicant defers (but reserves the right to present) further remarks, such as concerning any dependent claims, which are believed separately patentable. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this basis of rejection for claims 2-4, 6-7, 9, 16, and 18-19.

2. Claims 5 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wachi in view of Goodwin and further in view of Schneider as applied to the claims above, and further in view of Takahashi et al. (U.S. 6,884,936; hereinafter “Takahashi”).

These dependent claims 5 and 17 depend from independent claims 1 and 15, either directly or indirectly, and accordingly incorporate the limitations of each of these independent claims. These dependent claims are accordingly believed to be patentable for the reasons stated herein. For brevity, Applicant defers (but reserves the right to present) further remarks, such as concerning any dependent claims, which are believed separately patentable. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this basis of rejection for claims 5 and 17.

Reservation of Rights

In the interest of clarity and brevity, Applicant may not have equally addressed every assertion made in the Office Action; however, this does not constitute any admission or acquiescence. Applicant reserves all rights not exercised in connection with this response, such as the right to challenge or rebut any tacit or explicit characterization of any reference or of any of the present claims, the right to challenge or rebut any asserted factual or legal basis of any of the rejections, the right to swear behind any cited reference such as provided under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, or the right to assert co-ownership of any cited reference. Applicant does not admit that any of the cited references or any other references of record are relevant to the present claims, or that they constitute prior art. To the extent that any rejection or assertion is based upon the Examiner's personal knowledge, rather than any objective evidence of record as manifested by a cited prior art reference, Applicant timely objects to such reliance on Official Notice, and reserves all rights to request that the Examiner provide a reference or affidavit in support of such assertion, as required by MPEP § 2144.03. Applicant reserves all rights to pursue any cancelled claims in a subsequent patent application claiming the benefit of priority of the present patent application, and to request rejoinder of any withdrawn claim, as required by MPEP § 821.04.

CONCLUSION

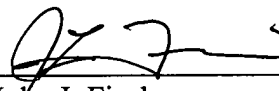
Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at 612-371-2134 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

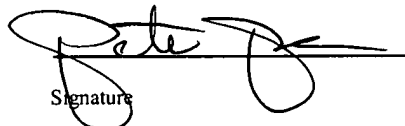
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Date 8 Jan 2008

By 
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 8 day of January 2008.


Name


Signature